

ADmits MURDER, BUT NOT THEFT

Tullio Murri on Stand in
Bonnmartini Case.

STABBED SISTER'S HUSBAND

Star Witness in Sensational Trial
Elicits Sympathy of Court
Room Crowd.

TUNIS, March 18.—Tullio Murri, brother of the Countess Linda Bonmartini, and accused of having murdered and robbed Count Bonmartini, occupied the witness stand at the trial at Tunis and his testimony threw a curious but unsavory light on the Murri family, the self-styled socialists, anxious to marry their daughter to an aristocrat, and who when they found Linda Murri unhappy with her noble but stupid husband, killed him to set her free.

Seldom before had an alleged murderer aroused such widespread and such sympathetic interest as Tullio Murri. As he gave his evidence it was easy to see that even several members of the jury were considering the young man with sympathetic faces.

Tullio Murri is a young man of twenty-seven. His profession is given as that of a barrister and professor of literature. He is also editor of a socialist paper published at Bologna.

Tullio said that when he found that the reconciliation which he had been the means of effecting between the count and Linda did not have happy results, owing to the count's brutality, he determined to take his sister's part.

He recited calling upon the count and demanding that he treat his sister well, but the count simply sneered at him. Continuing the witness said:

"Ah! I was furious, and I struck him a fierce blow on the head with my clenched fist. Almost immediately I regretted my rash action. But it was too late, for the count drew his dagger and closed with me, instantly stabbing me with great force in the left arm."

"Then a terrific struggle took place between us. We breathed fierce words of hate at each other and called each other by every insulting name. I tried to defend myself against the count's savage attack as he lunged his knife into me, and at last in the struggle, seizing his wrist, I turned it and the point of the dagger which he held toward him. The dagger sank into his throat as I forced his arm back."

Stabbed Him Furiously.

"The count fell to the ground, and then, blind with rage and having no real consciousness of what I was doing, I wrenched the dagger from his grasp and plunged it repeatedly into his body, stabbing him blindly and furiously in my rage."

"During this sensational narrative Tullio went continuously and loud sounds came also from Linda, and her fellow-prisoners."

"If I committed this crime," said Tullio, after a pause, "if I have become an assassin, it was out of the great love I bore my sister Linda. She was all in life to me and I wished her to be happy. Hence I took her husband's life."

"An Assassin, But No Thief."

"And stole his purse afterward," added the judge sarcastically.

"Ah! no, that is a base lie," exclaimed Tullio indignantly.

"I am an assassin, but no thief."

The trial has excited the greatest interest and special newspaper correspondents from several quarters of the globe are in attendance.

IMPROVED PLAYGROUNDS ARE NOW IN PROSPECT

That the children of the District of Columbia will have better playgrounds during the coming spring and summer than ever before, was assured at the meeting of the public playgrounds committee yesterday afternoon. The playgrounds now in existence will be repaired and the accommodations increased, and new places for the boys and girls to play will be established at suitable locations.

It was decided to appoint a general supervisor of all the playgrounds, the salary to be paid two months by the committee, and three months by the Commissioners out of the appropriation of \$2,000, which was voted during the session just closed.

Miss Elizabeth Brown, chairman of the subcommittee having the matter in charge, said that after careful investigation of several available men, they had decided to recommend Henry S. Curtis, of New York, who has testimonials from the highest sources.

Dr. Curtis will be invited to come to Washington at once to look over the field, and if things are satisfactory his appointment is assured. He will have complete control of the playground system, and under him there will be a caretaker, or watchman, for every place.

Those present at the meeting yesterday afternoon were Cuno H. Ludolph, chairman of the committee; Wallace Hatch, secretary of the Associated Charities; Miss Ida Green, G. A. Weber, Mrs. Ellen S. Bussey, H. Lowe, Miss Elizabeth Brown, Dr. George M. Robt. M. Curtis, Dr. Curtis, Rev. F. I. A. Bennett, Mrs. Charles F. Weller, John B. Stennan, N. B. Ridout, Miss Clara J. Van Trump, Mrs. Florence Bailey, Miss Ely Hyde, and Mrs. Cuno H. Ludolph.

DIED.

HAWLEY.—On March 18, Gen. JOSEPH R. HAWLEY, services for immediate friends at the family residence, 1716 N. Street, at 5 p. m. Sunday, March 19, Interment at Hartford. It

KING.—On Saturday, March 18, WILLIAM E. KING, son of the late William E. and Minnie E. King, aged twenty-two years. Funeral services at family residence, 941 N. Street, on Monday at 2 p. m. Interment private.

LANDWEHR.—On Friday, March 17, 1905, at 2 p. m. HENRIK, beloved husband of Margherita Landwehr, aged sixty-one years. Funeral from his late residence, No. 1322 Kinnaman place northwest, on Monday, March 20, at 9 o'clock a. m. Requiem mass at St. Mary's church at 9:30. Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend. Interment at St. Mary's cemetery.

WEBB.—On March 16, HARRISON WEBB, funeral from Dabney's undertaking establishment on Monday, March 20.

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Religion in Schools Still Hotly Discussed

Question Is Uppermost in Minds of Washington People, and Many Conflicting Opinions Are Expressed in The Times.

Shall there be moral teaching in the public schools of the District on a distinctly religious basis?

This is the question which is uppermost in the Washington mind today, and interest in it seems constantly on the increase. More opinions are given today from well-known citizens, and, as on previous days, there remains the same divergence.

NECESSARY PART OF EDUCATION.

Dr. Charles W. Needham, president of George Washington University:

The underlying principle which justifies general taxation for public education is that elementary education is essential to good citizenship. This argument has been advanced by all who have favored the public schools. This reason applies, of course, to education in what are called the elementary or fundamental subjects. In this realm of education we are justified in going only so far as is necessary to lay the foundations for true citizenship.

Thomas Jefferson, in writing upon this subject, speaks of it as the education of the common people which, together with their good sense, will secure the preservation of a due degree of liberty and a free state. "Instruct," he says, "every child to read, that he may know what is going on in the world, and so that he may keep his part in the world's work going right." It will be observed at once that this involves not only a knowledge of reading, arithmetic, geography, and other studies, but an ability to discriminate between right and wrong conduct. The ability to read and write and figure, and is the technical part of education, is a necessary part of good citizenship. But back of all this is the man himself.

Question of Character.

It is said that those who listened to the orations of Lord Chatham felt that there was something finer in the man than anything that he said. Back of all action, whether it be common or refined, is the man himself—what is technically called character and character is essentially and exclusively a matter of morals; it is that perception, that judgment or distinguishing quality which determines right from wrong in conduct; it is an internal court of justice before which all conduct is summoned for trial, the evidence heard and judgment rendered and a compulsory process issued which determines the individual's actions and words. The possession of this quality in a man is absolutely essential to good citizenship.

To teach the technical part of good citizenship and omit the elementary development of character is putting a gun in the hand of a child, a bomb in the hand of a Nihilist. It is creating bad citizenship. If a man has no character, cannot discriminate between right and wrong, the most intelligent and the most energetic man, he is a danger to society. He does not make a plea, however, for ignorance. I simply insist that the education of a boy shall be rounded and that he shall be given the elements of a moral education as well as the elements of technical citizenship. In neither branch can the education be complete or approaching completeness. It is elementary in both fields. Morality, it seems to me, rests primarily upon a recognition of the moral government of the universe in which we live.

We are taught first in a dogmatic way that there is a supreme Being. We then learn to believe that there is a divine power behind all manifestations of life by learning the principles governing all matter and the necessity of our knowledge that all things work together for righteousness when properly understood; and that our own conduct is bound up with the conduct of the universe, and that the recognition and respect for private property, of individual liberty, etc.

On Line of Morals.

Elementary education in the public schools should include and run along the line of morals as applied to conduct based upon a recognition of the divine government and law of the universe. No one should for a moment claim that the narrower fields of sectarian or denominational religion should be taught in the public schools, for the reason that taxation is general and only those subjects which are universal can be taught at public expense. "Plans of salvation," so denominated, the observance of ceremonial and days, and sectarian dogmas are only to be taught in the church and family, where the particular belief of the parent may be transmitted.

It is objected that this is contrary to the fundamental principle that there should be no union of church and state. The splendid conflict that has been going on for the last century, and is not yet completed in some countries, does not in any way involve the question of whether moral education shall be taught in public schools. It simply involves the issue that no organized church shall dominate the state, or have undue influence in the affairs of the state, but that the religious beliefs of every citizen shall be absolutely free.

Church and State.

It is the organization, known as the church, which is not to have an organic relation with the state. It seems a pity that so wholesome and beneficent a rule as this should be used to prevent the state from teaching the fundamental

elements of morality and growing, through its public school work, a body of citizens who are given the technical knowledge to do things, and also in an elementary way are equipped to determine what ought to be done and what conduct is prohibited.

It is said that there is the reading of the Bible in the public schools. I have as little confidence in the reading of textbooks upon the subjects of morality as I have in teaching arithmetic and geography by reading it in a perfunctory way to pupils. "Thou shalt not steal" is a rule which every pupil ought to commit to memory, but in addition he ought to be taught what stealing is. Not all taking of property is stealing. A person need not stealthily take property in order to be guilty of stealing. It may have come into his possession innocently, but discovering that it is not his own and who the real owner is, and then appropriating it to his own use, makes him a thief.

My experience with young people teaches me that they, like older children, want to know the reason of things and are quite ready to learn if their reason and judgment are appealed to and cultivated. I would have morality as the basis of character taught, not read, in the public schools. This requires a good elementary text-book which ought to be prepared with care to insure keeping the study within the proper lines and making the subject of moral conduct clear to the youthful mind.

Religious Training

Lacking in Many Homes

One of the oldest and best known members of the metropolitan police force, who for very obvious reasons could not permit the use of his name, says:

"I have followed with very great interest the reports in The Times of the agitation of teaching religion and morality in the public schools."

"Personally I have always believed it better that the teaching of moral living and the foundation of religious principles should be left to the home circle and the church, but I am free to admit that there may be thousands of cases in which all such teaching is neglected at home, and the child grows up without the slightest attention to its moral training or spiritual welfare. "From my own experience as a policeman I have seen in hundreds and hundreds of cases the evil result of the lack of proper teaching in childhood. Men and women, hardened criminals, have told me how they regretted the absence in their youth of the influence of religion of any kind."

"So I am convinced that if the arrangement can be made to place on a broad plane the teaching of the Golden Rule and such religious training as may be entirely devoid of denominational bias, it will accomplish a vast deal of good in the children in our public schools who lack such influences at home."

"Nevertheless the question is a dangerous one to handle, in my opinion, because any closer connection between church and state is likely to mean trouble for all concerned. It may be all right to tell us that an objecting parent can be protesting prevent the enforced religious teaching of his child, but you and I know that there are many ways in which a teacher so disposed could insidiously mold the child's mind and do so-called missionary work for the denomination he or she might favor."

Entire Scheme Futile; Will Fail of Itself

Meyer Cohen, of Wolfe & Cohen:

"I have not had the time to read carefully the majority report of the committee and therefore I am unable to criticize it accurately, but on the general principle I am opposed unalterably to the giving of religious instruction in the public schools."

The evils presented in the juvenile courts are said to be responsible for this movement. I think this is a mistake, for the cause goes deeper and it should be sought in other channels than the lack of religious instruction in educational institutions.

"My eye caught the closing lines of the report in which it is stated that any child or any scholar desiring to be excused from religious study would be so relieved. This appears to me to be an admission of the futility of the entire scheme, and will, in course of time, work out its destruction."

"But even as an experiment I think the proposition strikes at the root of religious liberty and therefore ought not to be introduced in a place where the ideals of freedom are supposed to be formed and taught."

HOLD UP PERMIT FOR APARTMENT

Effort to Save Triangle for
Public Reservation.

DRASTIC ACTION IS TAKEN

Alleged That Real Estate Speculators
Seek to Mar the Beauty of
Sixteenth Street.

Drastic action was taken by the District Commissioners yesterday to prevent the construction of an apartment house on the triangle bounded by Sixteenth street, Kenesaw avenue, and Mt. Pleasant street, which, it was declared, would interfere seriously with the plan to make a grand boulevard of Sixteenth street between the White House and the National Park.

The application of the Kenesaw Apartment House Company to erect their proposed building was refused, and to make the refusal still more binding the Commissioners declared that they would refuse to grant any projections on public space in adjacent streets for the storage of building materials in case the matter is carried into court and a writ of mandamus secured.

Prompted by Gallinger.

This action of the Commissioners came upon the heels of a communication from Senator Gallinger, chairman of the Senate Committee on the District of Columbia, who said he had noticed in the press that the construction of an apartment house on the triangle at Sixteenth street and Kenesaw avenue was proposed, and suggested that the Commissioners deny a permit for the building for a reasonable time until Congress can have an opportunity to act on the matter.

"You will recall the fact," said the Senator, "that during the last session of Congress a bill passed the Senate for the purchase of the triangle, that was reported favorably in the House, and was placed on the omnibus public buildings bill, which, unfortunately, failed of passage. This clearly indicates that both houses of Congress are in favor of purchasing the triangle, and I feel sure that if the matter can be held up until the next session prompt action will be taken toward securing the property for the Government."

A Great Misfortune.

"It will be a great misfortune to have Sixteenth street marred by the construction of a building of that kind. The street ought to be saved for fine residences, and I feel sure that all who have an interest in the welfare of Washington will agree with me that every possible effort should be put forth in that direction."

It was only a short time after the lock of proper teaching in childhood. Men and women, hardened criminals, have told me how they regretted the absence in their youth of the influence of religion of any kind.

"So I am convinced that if the arrangement can be made to place on a broad plane the teaching of the Golden Rule and such religious training as may be entirely devoid of denominational bias, it will accomplish a vast deal of good in the children in our public schools who lack such influences at home."

DR. STAFFORD'S LECTURE UPON RICHARD THIRD

On the evening of March 26, the Rev. Dr. D. J. Stafford will deliver one of his celebrated lectures upon Shakespearean characters. The lecture this time will be upon Richard III, and is to be delivered in the New National Theater. Father Stafford has few equals in the interpretation of the plays of Shakespeare, and his lectures upon the characters portrayed by the great poet are always of great interest.

Tickets will be on sale beginning tomorrow afternoon at the box office of the New National.

Hungry Club to Merge With the Civic Center

Two Organizations With a Common Purpose
Decide to Amalgamate in Order to
Promote the Public Welfare.

At a joint meeting held at the Dewey Hotel last night arrangements were made for an amalgamation of the Civic Center and the "Hungry Club," whose interests in promoting the public welfare are practically the same.

A "Dutch treat" dinner preceded the meeting, which was well attended. Much humor was indulged in, the leading wit being Commissioner Macfarland and George S. Wilson, secretary of the Board of Public Charities. Their shafts were directed chiefly at the "Hungry Club," which, it was decided, had no existence and never had any. Nevertheless, the members of the non-existent organization were well represented on the committee appointed by Dr. George M. Kober, chairman of the meeting, to frame plans for the fusion of the two organizations.

Dr. Kober and Dr. Max West, of the Department of Commerce and Labor, gave the history of the Civic Center, which, they said, was organized about twelve years ago by Miss Katherine Hosmer, now Mrs. Roland Morris, of Philadelphia. They dwelt on the good work it had accomplished and the work it was trying to do. Among the movements it had brought about were those which resulted in the Sanitary Improvement Company, the Instructive Visiting Nurses' Society, and the Diet Kitchen.

"Hungry Club's" Origin.

In his story of the "Hungry Club" Charles F. Weller, of the Associated Charities, said it began with the meeting of a number of choice spirits at a lunch room at noon. They were interested in the welfare of humanity, particularly children, and gradually the number grew. There had never been any officers, said Mr. Weller, nor tangible organization of any sort. They met occasionally, but had no offices and no rules.

"In favoring the amalgamation of the Civic Center and the 'Hungry Club,'" said Mr. Weller, "I do not mean to prophesy that we can accomplish wonderful things. There is a great deal we cannot hope to do, but there is much we can do, and I feel that we should go ahead and do the best we can."

Committee to Arrange Merger.

Mr. Weller then made the motion which was afterward adopted, that a committee be appointed to arrange a merger of the two clubs. The committee, appointed by the Chair was Dr. Kober, chairman; Mr. Weller, Dr. Max West, John B. Stennan, George L. Wilson, and Dr. Emily Young O'Brien.

George L. Wilson, in opposing Mr. Weller's motion, said that he did not see how the "Hungry Club" could take part in any proceedings when no such thing as the "Hungry Club" existed.

Mrs. J. A. Gillfillan, who is at the head of the Day Nursery for Children, told of the excellent work that is being accomplished at the two nurseries at 118 M Street southwest and 67 O Street northwest.

Dr. Emily Young O'Brien, who is at the head of Civic Center's committee on education, spoke of the necessity of compulsory education in the District of Columbia, and of the bright prospects for the passing of legislation covering this necessity at the next session of Congress.

Macfarland Makes a Speech.

Commissioner Macfarland, the last speaker, kept the meeting in a roar of laughter.

"Mrs. Macfarland, whom I always obey," said Mr. Macfarland, "told me not to make a speech, but I can't help it. I am afraid. I came here tonight not knowing what it was I was

invited to beyond a Dutch treat dinner. It now appears that I was invited to a wedding, or a betrothal—a courting, at any rate.

"The Civic Center is the bridegroom in this case," said Mr. Macfarland, "and the 'Hungry Club' the bride. I do not know whether to say 'Bless you my children' or to forbid the banns."

In conclusion Mr. Macfarland spoke of the good work of such organizations and wished all prosperity to the future of the Civic Center and the 'Hungry Club."

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SPECIAL NOTICES.

NOTICE is hereby given that the partnership lately existing between Lawrence F. Gould and Howard J. Koken, carrying on business as Photo-Engravers at the Times Building, 10th and D streets N. W., under the style of the Washington Photo-Engraving Company, was dissolved by mutual consent, and that the business in future will be carried on by the said Lawrence F. Gould, with Charles F. Lanman trading under the style and name of Gould-Lanman Engraving Company, who will pay and discharge all debts and liabilities and receive all moneys payable to the said law firm.

HOWARD J. KOKEN.

LAWRENCE F. GOULD.

CHARLES F. LANMAN.

MR. T. B. REINHARDT, who established the Silk House in 1878, has retired from the firm of T. B. Reinhardt & Sons. George W. Reinhardt and Louis L. Reinhardt contemplate continuing the business, which will be known as the Reinhardt Silk House.

TO THE POLICY HOLDERS OF THE Mutual Investment Fire Insurance Company: You are hereby notified that the company has been granted its license, and will now receive the premiums due on the insurance policies of its members. Bring your policies with you. Office 723 10th st. n.w. Law office of the President, RICHARD J. BEALL, Secretary. Office opened from 9 a. m. to 6 p. m. mh18-21

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